



## **DPCC Fact Sheet: Republicans Should Stop Threatening to Shut Down the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

*With terrorists all around us, Republicans are willing to shut down our homeland security. Just weeks after the horrifying terror attack in Paris and evidence that cyberattacks represent a serious threat to our security, Republicans are still willing to threaten a DHS shutdown in order to appease the Tea Party and protest President Obama's legal first steps to fix our broken immigration system. The House-passed DHS appropriations bill includes a number of anti-immigrant riders that Republicans know cannot pass the U.S. Senate and would be vetoed by the President. Republicans should stop resorting to shut down threats and work with Democrats to pass a clean appropriations bill so the DHS can do the critical work of protecting us from terrorist threats.*

### **A DHS Shutdown Would Compromise National Security**

In the event of a shutdown, the bulk of DHS management and headquarters administrative support activities would cease, including those that support much of the homeland security infrastructure that was built following the 9/11 terrorist attacks to improve command, control, and coordination of disparate frontline activities.

- Securing the Cities grants, which help pay for nuclear detection capabilities in New York City, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C., could not be awarded in FY15. [DHS, [9/27/13](#)]
- DHS' Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, which has helped coordinate the efforts of local law enforcement agencies across the country since 9/11, would stop operating. [DHS, [9/27/13](#)]
- FEMA would cease training activities with local law enforcement for Weapons of Mass Destruction events. [CRS, [10/24/13](#)]
- Critical Research and Development work intended to provide front line personnel with nuclear detection equipment would cease. Work to improve cargo screening technologies and to enhance passenger screening equipment would be suspended. Efforts to develop countermeasures to biological threats would not continue. [DHS, [9/27/13](#); CRS, [10/24/13](#)]

### **Thousands of Frontline Security Personnel Would Work Without Pay**

Although some DHS employees would continue to work in the event of a shutdown, they would be forced to do so without pay, creating a significant distraction and dealing a blow to morale. Among those who would be expected to protect Americans without getting paid would be:

- Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Border Patrol agents on the borders and CBP officers at the ports of entry. [CRS, [10/24/13](#)]
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel working on enforcement efforts. [CRS, [10/24/13](#)]
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA) personnel conducting aviation passenger screening. [CRS, [10/24/13](#)]
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). [CRS, [10/24/13](#)]

### **FEMA Staff Providing Preparedness Resources to First Responders Sent Home**

- 22% of FEMA staff would be furloughed. While work on current disasters would continue, preparations for future disasters would be significantly delayed. [CRS, [10/24/13](#)]
- FEMA Flood Mapping for high flood risk areas impacted by coastal flooding, levees, and other flood hazards would be suspended. [CRS, [10/24/13](#)]
- FEMA personnel working on homeland security grants programs – such as for intelligence analyst and firefighter needs -- would be furloughed, ceasing any further activity intended to prevent terrorism or build state and local resiliency. [White House, [9/27/13](#)]

### **Republicans Know Their Bill Can't Pass and will Cause a Security Shutdown**

**Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA):** “I know what the Senate will not do and they will not do this bill ... So, at some point we have to do a better job in the House of managing expectations. The expectations are now quite high about the bill under consideration, which will pass the House, but it will not be the final product that's signed into law. So that's the issue right now.” [Roll Call, [1/9/15](#)]

**Sen. Mark Kirk:** “I think the defunding action leads us to a potential government shutdown scenario, which is a self-inflicted political wound for Republicans”. [Politico [1/9/15](#)]

**Sen. Dean Heller, in response to the House strategy:** “I'm a little leery about it .... I just want to make sure those individuals that are affected by that legislation are treated respectfully. I just want to be very, very careful that we do it in the right manner, and we don't do it in a way that is offensive.” [Politico [1/9/15](#)]

### **Extreme Republican Immigration Proposals Appease Tea Party, Don't Fix System**

These amendments would prevent the use of any funds to implement the original 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) memo and any succeeding memo or policy. The Republican plan would also result in individuals brought to the United States as children, through no fault of their own, being deported from the United States, the only country that many of them have ever called home. Specifically, the Republicans' poison pill amendments would:

- Prevent the use of DHS funds or fees to enforce all of the November 20 executive actions except for those reforming pay of ICE officers, as well as a host of other DHS prioritization memoranda and any substantially similar subsequent memorandum, and prohibit the US Citizenship and Immigration Services from expanding the 2010 DACA program. (Aderholt Amendment) [LIS, [1/14/15](#)]
- Prevent the use of any funds to implement the original 2012 DACA memo and any succeeding memo or policy. (Blackburn Amendment) [LIS, [1/14/15](#)]
- Prevent ICE from implementing its memoranda setting civil immigration enforcement priorities and seek to impose a rigid requirement that makes “any alien convicted of any offense involving domestic violence, sexual abuse, child molestation, or child exploitation as within the categories of aliens subject to the Department of Homeland Security’s highest civil immigration enforcement priorities,” regardless of background history or mitigating factors. (DeSantis Amendment) [LIS, [1/14/15](#)]
- Find that deferred action recipients under the President’s policies are not subject to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandate and don’t need to be counted as an employee for purposes of employer obligations under the ACA. (Salmon Amendment) [LIS, [1/14/15](#)]
- Express the sense of Congress that USCIS should stop putting the interests of undocumented immigrants ahead of legal immigrants. (Schock Amendment) [LIS, [1/14/15](#)]